



Selected Background Resources

Construction Trades Licensing

Although the following includes selected resources regarding the licensing of the construction trades under the Utah Code, it is not a comprehensive analysis of the legal requirements. For additional information, you may contact the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

Introduction

During its June 23, 2010 meeting, the Business and Labor Interim Committee will discuss issues related to the licensing of construction trades. The following are four selected resources that are available to understand Utah's current licensing practices. This cover sheet highlights examples of issues addressed by each resource.

Utah Code, Title 58, Chapter 55, Utah Construction Trades Licensing Act

This chapter of the Utah Code provides the framework for licensing of construction trades in the state. Examples of core provisions of this chapter include:

- providing that construction trades are licensed by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing (DOPL) in conjunction with the Construction Services Commission and with the assistance of several industry specific boards
- requiring a license before a person may engage in a licensed construction trade, unless specifically exempted from licensure
- specifying the general license classifications, which include:
 - general engineering
 - general building
 - residential and small commercial
 - elevator contractor
 - specialty contractor
 - master plumber
 - residential master plumber
 - journeyman plumber
 - apprentice plumber
 - residential journeyman plumber
 - master electrician
 - residential master electrician
 - journeyman electrician
 - residential journeyman electrician

- apprentice electrician
- construction trades instructor
- alarm company
- alarm company agent
- elevator mechanic
- establishing the basic qualifications for a license, including requirements related to:
 - examinations
 - evidence of financial responsibility
 - evidence of knowledge and experience
 - proof of workers' compensation insurance
 - proof of public liability insurance
 - proof of registration with specific government agencies
 - specific license classifications
- imposing requirements related to obtaining continuing education and providing continuing education instruction
- addressing what can be done under a license and what is required of a licensee
- addressing what results in license denial or other discipline
- addressing what constitutes unlawful or unprofessional conduct
- addressing payment obligations.

Utah Administrative Code, R156-55a, Utah Construction Trades Licensing Act Rule

The Utah Construction Trades Licensing Act Rule provides greater detail to the framework created by the Utah Code. Examples of core provisions of these rules include:

- detailing license classifications and scope of practice
- providing specifics related to examination and experience

requirements

- detailing proof of insurance and registration
- detailing continuing education requirements
- auditing of the demonstration of financial responsibility
- specifying penalties
- addressing specific licensing issues.

Application for Contractor's License

DOPL explains that it summarizes the requirements for licensure for most applicants in the application form. The application and accompanying instructions demonstrate the specific type of information an applicant is required to provide. For example, the application requires specific information related to financial responsibility and related alternatives.

DOPL Home Web Page

DOPL's home web page provides detail and resources for all the license areas it regulates. It is found at: <http://www.dopl.utah.gov/index.html>.

In addition, DOPL's web page provides specifics about contracting licenses at: <http://www.dopl.utah.gov/licensing/contracting.html>. This website is the portal for relevant:

- DOPL online services
- Statutes and rules
- Applications and forms
- Commission information
- Related websites
- Continuing education
- Other related information.